

Since his confirmation in late 2005, Director Gonzalez managed an organization of more than 17,000 Federal and contract employees responsible for the accurate, efficient, and secure processing of immigration applications.

During his tenure, USCIS underwent a period of unprecedented growth, revitalization, and expansion. The agency sharpened its fraud detection and national security efforts through the creation of the National Security and Records Verification Directorate and the deployment of Fraud Detection National Security officers to USCIS offices. The Nation's signature employment authorization program, E-Verify, grew to include 55,000 employer participants and has verified the work status of more than 3 million new employees. An ambitious facilities revitalization program was initiated by Director Gonzalez, with the goal to renovate or replace nearly 40 USCIS facilities over 3 years.

Director Gonzalez is a shining example of the contributions and excellence that the Hispanic community has brought, and will continue to bring, to the service of our great Nation.

Our grateful Nation is proud of his service, and I wish him the best in all his future endeavors. We will surely miss him dearly.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATAAN DEATH MARCH

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, today, we mark the anniversary of one of the darkest moments in American history.

For the thousands of soldiers who were surrendered to enemy forces on April 9, 1942, the years that have passed since have been filled with memories of what occurred that day and in the hundreds of days that followed. Starvation. Torture. Forced work. Captivity. Death.

But in the 66 years since, the events at Bataan have conjured other memories for the rest of us. Bravery. Sacrifice. And an unbreakable demonstration of courage.

"The Battling Bastards of Bataan," they were christened by Frank Hewlett, one of the last journalists to report on the troops before they were surrendered. For 4 months they fought, battling daily against the enemy, against illness, and against time. And when there was no fight left, when the time for surrender was upon them, they were alone. Neither planes in the skies nor boats in the sea appeared, ready to give the boost of firepower that would turn the tides. Instead, the men at Bataan laid down their weapons and walked into a hell that would last over 3 years.

In TIME magazine, the surrender at Bataan was reported under the headline, Death of an American Illusion. "These U.S. soldiers had stumbled ragged, sleepless and half-starved through the last days of the most humiliating defeat in U.S. history," wrote the correspondent. "In no previous battle had so many U.S. fighting men gone down before a foreign enemy, and seldom had any beaten U.S. soldiers been in such pitiable condition—believing until the last hour of destruction that their country could and surely would send

them aid. The U.S. had known the end was near. But it had not, could not, beforehand, taste the taste and smell the smell of crushing defeat."

For those of us from New Mexico, the events at Bataan strike home particularly hard because of the involvement of the 200th and 515th regiments. These New Mexico National Guardsmen came from all parts of the State and from all walks of life. On the 12 columns here we see their names and we lament at the sheer number who shipped overseas and never returned. They came to serve and they gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their country.

We also must take note at the number of Hispanic soldiers who served, fought, and died. Their service during a time of discrimination, both in the military and in the public, poignantly epitomizes the struggle they faced in being treated with equality, with respect, and with dignity. For those who remained unequivocally devoted to their Nation even while being treated as second-class citizens, we salute you and promise that we will not forget your service.

As a token of our remembrance, earlier this year I introduced legislation that would award the Bataan prisoners of war with the Congressional Gold Medal. This award, long past due, would be a fitting tribute and would forever signify the thanks of our Nation to the soldiers who served with honor and with courage.

Sadly, we are no longer graced with the presence of many of the original heroes who struggled and survived the ordeals of Bataan. The ravages of captivity and the passage of time have taken many of them from us and we are now left with their story and with their memory. Future generations of Americans will hear the story of Bataan second-hand, never able to meet a soldier who still bears the scars of torture or who still remembers the joy of liberation and returning home. For now, however, with those who are still here and who can still tell their story, we must grant them the widest forum and the most amplified voice to ensure that this tale of courage, this legend of the Battling Bastards of Bataan, is shared as far and wide as possible. We cannot, we must not, forget what happened at Bataan and our actions of honoring these soldiers will never meet the great sacrifice they gave on the battlefield so many years ago.

To those who suffered and who never returned, we honor your memory.

To those who have since passed, we remember your story.

And to those with us today, we praise your courage and give you our thanks.

RECOGNIZING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TWIN OAKS ESTATE

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for our friends in Taiwan as they celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Twin Oaks estate here in Washington, DC.

Twin Oaks estate was built in 1888 by Gardiner Greene Hubbard, the founder of the Na-

tional Geographic Society. This beautiful home was built as a summer residence for his family. Mr. Hubbard had two daughters, Grace and Mabel. Mabel later lived at Twin Oaks with her husband, Alexander Graham Bell.

Years later, Grace inherited the property. In 1937, she rented the property to the Republic of China's Government to serve as the ambassador's residence. A decade later, the Republic of China purchased the property and it served as the official residence of each successive Republic of China ambassador.

After extensive renovation that brought it back to its original elegance in the early 1980s, Twin Oaks was recognized and named as a national historic site in Washington, DC. Over the past two decades many functions have been held at Twin Oaks and today the estate continues to stand proudly as a symbol of the strong friendship between the United States and Taiwan.

Madam Speaker, the people of Taiwan live in a vibrant democracy and, as such, Taiwan has become a beacon of freedom and an engine of prosperity in the Pacific region. As we celebrate Twin Oaks' long and vibrant history, we are reminded of our strong ties, abiding mutual relations, and deep friendship with Taiwan.

CYTOLOGY PROFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of The Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act, H.R. 1237, which would modernize and improve a Federal program aimed at promoting quality cervical cancer screening. Pathologists are already required by Federal law under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988, CLIA, to comply with extensive quality assurance standards for Pap tests. The bill would complement CLIA by establishing a Federal continuing medical education, CME, requirement for pathologists and laboratory professionals who examine Pap tests to screen for cervical cancer.

I have been a long-time advocate of medical technology and education advancements. Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to tour the Pathology Lab at St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, DE to get a first hand look at the practice and techniques used in Delaware. During the tour, the doctors and medical staff highlighted the need for H.R. 1237.

Regular screening can make all the difference in addressing cervical cancer and early detection can save lives. Women need access to the latest in Pap test science, principles of patient safety and technological advances such as computer-assisted screening, digital imaging, and HPV typing. Over the years, this educational requirement will also accommodate advances in science and technology without going through the long process of making changes in regulation.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support passage of The Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act, H.R. 1237.